Whom warre repurchas'd? these be idle feares,
Rough blustering, *Boreas* faire *Orithea* beares,
Vnto the land of *Thrace*. yet *Thrace* still free,
And *Athens* rais'd no rude Hostility.
In winged *Pegasus* did *Iason* saile,
And from great *Colchos* he *Medea* stale:
Yet *Thessaly* you see can shew no scarre,
Of former wounds in the *Thessalian* warre:
He that first ravish'd you: In such a Fleete,
As ours is, *Ariadne* brought from *Creete*:
Yet *Mynos* and Duke *Theseus* were agreed,
About that quarrell, not abreast did bleede.
Lesse is the danger (trust me) then the feare,
That in these vaine and idle doubts appeare.
But say rude warre should be proclaim'd at length,
Know, I am valiant, and have sinowie strength.
The weapons that I use are apt to kill,
Asia besides, more spacious fields can fill,
With armed men then *Greece*, amongst us are
More perfect Souldiers, more beasts apt for war:
Nor can thy husband *Menelaus* be
Of any high spirit and Magnanimity,
Or so well prov'd in Armes: for *Hellen* I,
Being but a Lad have made my enemies flie.
Regain'd the prey from out the hands of Theeves,
Who had despoid our Heards, and stolne our Beeves.
By such adventures I my name obtained,
(Being but a Lad) the conquest I have gained.
Of young men in their prime, who much could doe,
Deiphebus, *Ilioneas* to.
I have o'recome in many sharpe contentions,
Nor thinke these are my vaine and forg'd inventions:

Or

Or that I onely hand to hand can fight,
My arrowes when I please shall touch the
I am expert in the Quarrey and the Bow,
You cannot boast your heartlesse husban
Had you the power in all things to supply
And should you nothing in the world deny
To give me such a *Hector* to my brother,
You could not: the earth beares not such a
By him alone all *Asia* is well man'd,
He like an enemy against *Greece* shall sta
Oppos'd to your best fortunes, wherefore
You doe not know his valour that must wi
Or what hid worth is in me but at length,
You will confesse when you have prov'd m
Thus either warre shall still our steps purs
Or *Greece* shall fall in *Troyes* all-conqueri
Nor would I feare for such a royall wife,
To set the Vniversall world at strife:
To gaine rich Prizes men will venture far
The hope of purchase makes us bold in war
If all the world about you should contend,
Your name would be eterniz'd without en
Onely be bold, and feareless may we sa
Into my Countrey, with a prosperous gale,
If the gods grant me my expected day,
I to the full shall all these Covenants pay.

POEMS William Shakespeare LONDON, 1640 THE WARNOCK LIBRARY Octavo